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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/683,185

11/29/2001

Albert Rabinovich

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52237

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01/03/2006

BACHMAN & LAPOINTE, P.C. (P&W)

900 CHAPEL STREET

SUITE 1201

NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2802

EXAMINER

YEE, DEBORAH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/683,185

Applicant(s)

RABINOVICH ET AL.

Examiner

Deborah Yee

Art Unit

1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-10,12-33 and 37-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-10,12-33 and 37-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 10 and 12 to 33, and 37 to 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,452,882 (Wunning) in view of US Patent 6,394,793 (Bunge) for the reasons set forth in the office action dated and further in view of the English abstract of Japanese patent 404180535 for the reasons stated below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10-25-05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
4. It was submitted that Wunning discloses an apparatus for quenching steel roller bearing rings. There is no suggestion for using the Wunning apparatus and method on a nickel alloy forging such as a turbine engine blade disk. Contrary to applicant's submission, Wunning on lines 9 to 15 of column 1 discloses using his quenching apparatus for treating workpieces that are rotation-symmetric, such as rings, **discs** , shafts and the like and hence would meet the disc recited by newly submitted claim 42. Moreover, Wunning on line 19 of column 1 states that quenching system can be used for "steels and **other metals**" and therefore would include the Ni as recited by

applicant's claims since Ni alloys are commonly used in the metallurgical art to make rings, discs and shafts as evident by English abstract of Japanese patent 404180535 (note JP'535 has been cited to further depict the state of the art in Ni alloys for turbine components).

5. Applicant stated that , Bunge, is directed to a material and product different from Wunning and therefore can not be a proper secondary teaching. It is the examiner's position that Bunge on lines 4 to 40 in column teaches quenching metal workpieces that are circular in shape, such as discs. Similarly, Wunning on lines 9 to 15 of column 1 discloses quenching metal workpieces that are rotation-symmetric (circular) such as discs. Hence Bunge and Wunning quenching workpieces are related.

6. It was argued that Wunning nozzle diameter of 0.5 to 10 mm is a very broad range and therefore would indicate Wunning does not appreciate the benefits of applicant's more narrowly claimed range of 0.055 to 0.075". It is the examiner's position that Wunning discloses a specific example diameter of 2 mm (equivalent to 0.787") that closely approximates applicant's claimed range of 0.055 to 0.075" . Since applicant has not demonstrated criticality (e.g. by comparative test data) of the claimed diameter range, then it would seem that a diameter of 0.75" vs. a diameter of 0.787" would depict a mere difference in numerical measurement without any attendant unexpected results which would not patentably distinguish claims over prior art.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

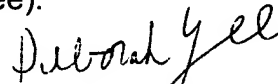
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah Yee whose telephone number is 571-272-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 to 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Deborah Yee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

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